

and the Tennessee Army National Guard. America's fortunate to have men like Ricky and we honor him today.

HONORING CHERI FLEMING

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cheri Fleming, a lovely lady from Santa Clarita, CA. On May 22, Newsweek presented her with the prestigious 2006 Dealer of the Year Award from the American International Automobile Dealers Association, AIADA.

Founded in 1970, AIADA represents 11,000 American automobile dealerships. The members of the association provide nearly 500,000 American jobs and have a positive economic impact both nationally and in their communities. Every May, in recognition of exceptional community contributions and staunch commitment to the advancement of the industry, the Dealer of the Year program acknowledges 10 finalists from across the Nation. Winning the first time she was nominated, Cheri was the only woman proposed this year for the prestigious award.

Partners in business, philanthropy and in life, Cheri and her husband, Don, purchased Valencia Acura in 1997. Although soon to change, at the time the dealership's national ranking was dead last for sales and also in customer satisfaction. Cheri and Don adopted the philosophy of "friendship" instead of "dealership" and began treating their customers just as they would like to be treated. Today, Valencia Acura is one of the top Acura dealerships in the country and also ranks amongst the highest in customer satisfaction with repeat and referral customers comprising over 75 percent of the business. In a relatively short amount of time, Valencia Acura has won many accolades from Acura and Customer Satisfaction Index awards, including: Acura's Precision Team—2002–2004, Honda's Council of Excellence—2004–2005, "Best New Car Dealership in Santa Clarita"—2003–2005, "Most Community Minded Owners in Santa Clarita"—2003–2005 and Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce "2001 Business of the Year" for the medium-sized category.

With the success of Valencia Acura, Cheri and Don rapidly became vital forces in the Santa Clarita Valley and have donated nearly \$3 million to community organizations in the past 7 years. Their community involvement transcends financial support as they can often be found participating in community organizations and generously giving their time, energy and efforts for a variety of causes. For their hard work and dedication, Don and Cheri were selected as Santa Clarita's Man and Woman of the Year for 2004. Never before in the history of the program has a husband and wife received the award in the same year.

Although at the helm of a thriving business, Cheri finds time for her extensive volunteer endeavors. Currently, she is the vice president at-large and a director for the Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Health Foundation, governor-elect for the Soroptimist International Camino Real Region, member and past-president of the Soroptimist International of Santa

Clarita Valley, vice president of Special Events and a director for the Child and Family Center Foundation, a director for the Roar Foundation Advisory Board, chair-elect and a director for the American Cancer Society Unit Council and the Los Angeles Regional Unit Council, vice president of the Sheila R. Veloz Breast Imaging Center Advisory Board, chair of the Arthritis Foundation Walk and with Don as her co-chair, has headed the Boys & Girls Club Auction for the past 3 years. In addition, Cheri just fulfilled her \$100,000 pledge to help with a cardiac-catheter lab and new emergency room for our local hospital. Recently, Cheri chaired the Santa Clarita Valley Arthritis Walk raising over \$60,000 and Don's efforts for the Fleming-Crawford Golf Invitational raised over \$113,000 for the Sheila R. Veloz Breast Imaging Center.

The AIADA acknowledged Cheri Fleming's exceptional community contributions and business acumen with the 2006 Dealer of the Year Award and I would like to commend Cheri for her success as well. Sir Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." Supported by Don, there is no one who embodies that statement better than Cheri Fleming. Together, their efforts have made the Santa Clarita Valley a much better place to live and I salute them for their efforts.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS R. MERRILL OF LAKE COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas R. Merrill of Groveland, Florida. Recognized as the longest serving police chief in the Nation, Chief Merrill was honored at the Florida Peace Officers Association awards ceremony as the first-ever recipient of their Distinguished Service Award.

For the past 37 years, Chief Merrill has served as Groveland's chief of police and has proved to be an inspiration to his community and area residents. In addition to his high morals and integrity, Chief Merrill's long tenure has demonstrated his great dedication and commitment to his profession, as well as to the city of Groveland.

Born and raised in Umatilla, FL, Chief Merrill joined the military after graduating from college, serving in the U.S. Air Force from 1959 to 1963 as a nuclear weapons specialist. Chief Merrill later became an officer with the Eustis Police Department, where he remained for 3 years. After taking a brief leave of absence from the force to spend time with his family, Chief Merrill soon thereafter accepted the position as Groveland's police chief. He has been there ever since, serving Groveland with pride and seeing the city through many changes.

After raising his children in Groveland, Chief Merrill is committed to keeping his community safe for future generations. He has enjoyed watching the police department and the city grow during his tenure, and with greater expansion likely for the future, Chief Merrill has no plans to retire anytime soon.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Merrill's career shows that loyalty and dedication to one's community

can indeed bring success and accomplishment. I congratulate him on being the first recipient of the Distinguished Service Award and commend him on his commitment and devotion to his career and to Groveland.

"ACTIVISM FOR THE RIGHT, RESTRAINT FOR THE LEFT"

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the great intellectual inconsistencies of our time is the assertion by conservatives that they are opposed to "judicial activism" and wish to have important public policy questions left to elected officials. Of course that is true only in those cases where they agree with what the elected officials have done, and they have shown very little restraint when their ideology calls for judicial invalidation of public policy. Indeed, some of the greatest anger I have heard expressed toward judiciary recently by my conservative colleagues has been against the eminent domain decision, in which the justices are guilty in the eyes of my conservative colleagues of being insufficiently activist—that is, the court majority allowed the actions of elected State and local officials in Connecticut to stand. I agree that eminent domain has been abused, but so is intellectual integrity when people insist that the courts defer to elected bodies on the one hand, and then denounce the Supreme Court precisely for doing that in the Kelo case.

Chief Justice Roberts to date appears to be very much in the mode of this one-sided condemnation of activism, as Adam Cohen cogently points out in the July 10 column in the New York Times—given the importance of consistency in the application of judicial principles, I ask that Mr. Cohen's very thoughtful analysis of the Chief Justice's inconsistency be printed here.

[From the Editorial Observer, July 10, 2006]

WHAT CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS FORGOT IN HIS FIRST TERM: JUDICIAL MODESTY

(By Adam Cohen)

At the confirmation hearings for John Roberts, there were two theories about what kind of a chief justice he would be. His critics maintained that he was an extreme conservative whose politics would drive his legal rulings. Judge Roberts, on the other hand, insisted that he was "not an ideologue," and that his judicial philosophy was to be "modest," which he defined as recognizing that judges should "decide the cases before them" and not try to legislate or "execute the laws."

Judicial modesty is an intriguing idea, with appeal across the political spectrum. For all the talk of liberal activist judges, anyone who is paying attention knows that conservative judges are every bit as activist as liberal ones; they just act for different reasons. A truly modest chief justice could be more deferential to the decisions of the democratically elected branches of government, both liberal and conservative, and perhaps even usher in a new, post-ideological era on the court.

That is not, however, how Chief Justice Roberts voted in his first term. He was modest in some cases, certainly, but generally